Kisan Credit Cards to farmers

†*476. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of farmers who have been provided Kisan Credit Cards during the last two and a half years;

(b) the total amount distributed to the farmers, till date, since the inception of Kisan Credit Card Scheme;

(c) the total number of farmers benefited with the said scheme until now; and

(d) the present status of recovery of loan given to the farmers through Kisan Credit Cards?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The Kisan Credit Cards (KCC) Scheme was introduced in August 1998 by NABARD and is being implemented by the Public Sector Banks, Regional Rural Banks and Cooperative Banks throughout the country. The total number of farmers who have been provided KCC during 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 (up to 28th February, 2007) and 96,80 lakh, 80.12 lakh and 59.16 lakh respectively.

(b) and (c) The scheme has benefited about 6.50 crore farmers till February 2007. The total amount of credit limit sanctioned to the card holders/farmers till 28 February 2007 in the country stood at Rs. 2,13,855 crore since introduction of the KCC scheme in August 1998.

(d) The status of recovery of loan given to the farmers through Kisan Credit Cards in not captured separately by NABARD.

Installation of rain water harvesting system

477. SHRI N. R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government insisted that the State Governments constitute mandatory rules to make compulsory installation of Rain Water

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Harvesting System in all newly and existing constructions, buildings and Government offices;

(b) if so, the details of feedback from the States and how many States have made rules for compulsory installation of Rain Water Harvesting Systems in the new construction; and

(c) the annual grant during the last year made by the Central Government to the States to improve numbers in installation of rain water harvesting system in all States?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): (a) The Union Ministry of Water Resources have requested all the State/ UT Governments for making provision for construction of rooftop rain water harvesting structure's in all the Government buildings.

In addition, the Medel Bill circulated by the Ministry of Water Resoruces to "Regulate and Control the Development and Management of Ground Water" to all the States/Union Territories contains a chapter of 'Rain Water Harvesting for Ground Water Recharge'. The Model Bill aslo provides for imposition of stipulated conditions by the Municipal Corporation or other local authorities for providing rooftop rain water harvesting structures in building plan in an area of 100 sq. mt. or more, while according approval for construction.

(b) As per the information received from the State/UT Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Daman & Diu, NCT Delhi, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Kerala, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Lakshadweep, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Puducherry, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Water Bengal, Arunachal Pradesh, Andaman & Nicobar, Orissa, Municipal Corporation of Ludhiana and Improvement Trust, Jalandhar (Punjab), Ranchi Regional Development Authority (Jharkhand) and Mussoorie Dehradun Development Authority (Uttarakhand) have made necessary provision in their building bye-laws to make installation of rain water harvesting system mandatory.

(c) The Ministry of Water Resources has not released any grant to States for improving the numbers in installation of rain water harvesting system in States. However, Central Ground Water Board provides technical guidance to State Governments, NGO, educational institutes, private entrepreneurs and individuals and also undertakes mass awareness and

training programmes on water conservation, rain water harvesting and artificial recharge to ground water.

Survey to assess delays of indian flights

478. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken congnizance of recurrent delays of the flights of Indian;

(b) whether Government make random surveys to assess the recurrent delays of flights;

(c) if so, the methodology and frequency of such surveys and the findings thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken by Government to ensure adherence to flight schedule?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) In Indian Airlines, all technical delays and cancellations are investigated to identify the cause and remedial action is taken immediately. A meeting of the representatives of operating departments at the Regional level is held every day to revievl previous 24 hours operations. Engineering delays and cancellations are dealt with promptly. At the base station, delays and cancellations are analysed to identify repetitive nature of snag. In case a repetitive sang is detected, special maintenance action is immediately taken to ensure that the snag does not persist. At the Headquarters level, the punctuality of services is monitored on a daily basis.

(e) The Government has approved acquisition of 43 new aircrafts for Indian Airlines. With the induction of new aircraft in the fleet, Indian Airlines will be in a better position to maintain the schedule integrity.